

AS/A2 Level DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES



Course Guide

Level 3 Two-year course

2010/11

To be successful on the course you will need to be interested in analysing and discussing theatre and learning how it works.

Furthermore you will enjoy working in a team environment to produce practical theatre.

Subject introduction

Drama & Theatre Studies is the study of live theatre in practice and theory. It aims to encourage the development of theatre skills by giving some practical experience of various aspects of theatre work through related theory and theatre visits. Students will be able to extend their knowledge and understanding of the art form and learn to make critical and sensitive responses to some of its complexities.

Students explore a variety of aspects of theatre performance including the actor's role and the work of the director, playwright and designer.

Year 1 study outline

Unit 1: You will develop your understanding of practice and theory by articulating your responses to the theatre productions you have seen throughout the year. You will need to take advantage of all available theatre visits organised by the department. In addition you will study a set text, which you will interpret from a performance perspective. The study of the text is followed by a written exam.

Unit 2: You will work in small groups to stage a production of an extract from a published play. Strong focus is given to creating an atmosphere of artistic co-operation. You will also be required to create a written portfolio.

Year 2 study outline

Unit 3: A further two plays are explored, one to be pre-20th Century and the other 20th Century or contemporary. You will learn how to appreciate a play from both the actors' and director's point of view with suggestions for a complete stage realisation from one extract.

Unit 4: You will develop your performance skills by presenting a devised performance in small groups. This will be performed in a theatrical style of your choice and you will be requested to submit a written portfolio, which will contain related research.

SEE WHAT'S NEXT

Methods of study

With this subject it is impossible to divide work strictly into practical and theoretical study as the two work together. In workshop sessions you explore the skills and forms used by different theatre practitioners. Using those approaches you create your own work in groups and individually. Practical productions and workshops are supported by class discussion, essays, and presentations to the group and independent study.

Special features

In order for you to develop your own critical response to theatre, a number of theatre trips will be organised during the two year course, which will be at an extra cost to you but which are a vital part of the course. On average you should budget for £75 per year, financial support is available.

Excellent facilities are available including a 250-seat theatre complete with computerised lighting, radio intercoms, music rooms and recording facilities.

You might also support your studies with involvement in extra-curricular performing arts activities such as the SEEVIC Youth Theatre or dance groups. Students will also have the chance to take part in theatre workshops.

Subject combinations and careers

Drama & Theatre Studies prepares you for progression onto professional training courses in the Arts or Higher Education. You will also develop a wide range of communication skills ideal for any form of employment.

Drama & Theatre Studies can be studied alongside other Performing Arts subjects such as Dance, Music, Music Technology or Performance Studies. Alternatively you might combine it with a wider range of A Levels such as English Literature, Art, Government & Politics, Modern Languages or Media Studies.

Success Stories

Students have progressed onto a variety of University courses, for example Cambridge, Roehampton, Bretton Hall Kent, Goldsmiths and Warwick University.

Students have also attained places at Guildford and Mountview Drama schools in recent years. Past students have gone on to work professionally in the theatre.

Methods of assessment

60% written exam.
40% practical performance and written coursework.